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- 1. On April 5, 2007, Plaintiffs filed a proposed class action complaint in the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. BC368973, captioned Maria G. Moncayo, an individual, and Luella Smith, an individual, individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated former employees of Circuit City in California v. Circuit City, Inc., a Virginia corporation (hereinafter referred to as "the Action"). The complaint alleges that Plaintiffs and other similarly situated former employees of Defendant are entitled to recover compensatory damages, including unpaid wages, statutory penalties for failure to provide advance notice of a qualifying event under the terms of the California Worker Adjustment and Notification Act (Cal-WARN), interest, attorneys' fees, and costs under California Labor Code section 1400 et seq. Plaintiffs' complaint also contains a cause of action for violation of California Business and Professions Code section 17200 et seq., and seeks restitution allegedly due for allegedly unlawful and unfair business practices.
- 2. Plaintiffs believe the Action is meritorious as described in their complaint, and that this case is appropriate for class certification under California law. Plaintiffs have considered the expense and length of continued proceedings necessary to continue the Action against Defendant through class certification, pre-trial motions, trial, and any possible appeals. Plaintiffs have also taken into account the uncertainty and risk of the outcome of further litigation, and the difficulties inherent in such litigation. Plaintiffs are also aware of the burdens of proof necessary to establish suitability of the case as a class action, liability for the claims asserted in the Action, Defendant's defenses thereto, and the difficulties in establishing Plaintiffs' damages. Plaintiffs have also considered the settlement negotiations conducted by the Parties and the recommendations of the mediator (Antonio Piazza, Esq.), who is highly experienced in employment litigation and in complex class litigation. Based on the foregoing, Plaintiffs have determined that this Settlement is fair, adequate and reasonable, and in the best interests of the Settlement Class defined below. Should this Settlement not be finally approved by the Court, neither this Stipulation of Settlement nor any documents referred to herein, nor any action taken to carry out the Parties' Settlement is, or may be construed as or may be used as, an admission by or against the Plaintiffs as to the merits or lack thereof of the claims asserted by Plaintiffs.

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- 3. Defendant denies any liability or wrongdoing of any kind associated with the claims alleged in Plaintiffs' complaint. Defendant contends, among other things, that at all times it has fully complied with the California Labor Code, that Plaintiffs and similarly situated employees were paid all wages owing to them under California law.
- The Parties have conducted significant discovery and investigation of the facts and 4. law both before and after the Action was filed. Such discovery and investigation have included, inter alia, the exchange of information pursuant to extensive informal discovery, meetings and conferences, two mediation sessions, and interviews of potential witnesses. Although formal discovery was stayed, the Parties exchanged and analyzed extensive electronic data, including information regarding Defendant's March 28, 2007 terminations which form the basis of Plaintiffs' complaint under Cal-WARN, documents reflecting Defendant's relevant policies and procedures, information relevant to the size and composition of the putative classes of former employees alleged in the complaint, information relevant to Defendant's locations in California, and information relevant to the damages alleged in the complaint. The Parties used experts to analyze payroll data for class representatives and putative class members during the relevant class period. On April 21, 2008 and May 15, 2008, the Parties participated in mediation sessions with mediator Antonio Piazza in San Francisco. The Parties subsequently reached a tentative agreement to settle the case, agreed on the key terms of the tentative settlement, and continued to negotiate specific terms of the settlement. The Parties now enter into this detailed, formalized settlement agreement to submit to the Court for approval in accordance with their tentative agreement.
- 5. For purposes of settling this lawsuit only, the Parties conditionally stipulate and agree that the requisites for establishing class certification are met with respect to a single "Settlement Class" as defined below, and stipulate to certification of this Settlement Class for purposes of this settlement only.
- 6. The Settlement Class shall be composed exclusively of "Class Members." A "Class Member" shall be defined as follows:

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It is the desire of the Parties to fully, finally, and forever settle, compromise, and 8. discharge all disputes and claims that exist between them arising from or related to the lawsuit. In order to achieve a full and complete release of Defendant (and the Releasees as defined in Paragraph 13) of such disputes and claims, each Class Member (which includes any legal heirs and/or successors-in-interest of each Class Member), through execution of the Stipulation of Settlement by the Class Representatives, acknowledges that this Stipulation of Settlement is intended to include in its effect all claims arising from or related to the termination of employment of Class Members on or shortly after March 28, 2007, exclusive only of claims the Class Members may have under the related case of Weidler, et al. v. Circuit City, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC369011, contained in this Settlement, including all claims set forth in paragraph 32 of this Stipulation of Settlement, which each Class Member does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor against Defendant during the Class Period. The Settlement Class, including Plaintiffs and each Class Member, waives all rights and benefits afforded by section 1542 of the Civil Code of the State of California with respect to such disputes and claims, and does so understanding the significance of that waiver. Section 1542 provides:

> A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release, which if known by him or her must have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor.

It is the intention of the Parties that this Stipulation of Settlement shall constitute a 9. full and complete settlement and release of all claims arising from, or relating to, the lawsuit, including, without limitation, any and all claims under state and federal law for unpaid damages, penalties and attorneys' fees arising from Defendant's termination of the employment of Class Members on or shortly after March 28, 2007, as encompassed by the class definition, exclusive only of claims the Class Members may have under the related case of Weidler, et al. v. Circuit City, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC369011, which release shall include in its effect Circuit City Stores, Inc., and each of their present and former affiliates, parent companies, subsidiaries, shareholders, officers, partners, directors, employees, agents, attorneys, insurers, predecessors, successors and assigns and each and all of their respective officers, partners,

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CONNAUGHTON LLP

JOINT STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE OF CLASS **ACTION CLAIMS** 

directors, servants, agents, shareholders, employees, representatives, accountants, insurers, and attorneys, past, present, and future, and all persons acting under, by, through, or in concert with any of them (collectively, the "Releasees"). Class Counsel has conducted a thorough investigation into the facts of the class 10.

- action, including an extensive review of relevant documents and electronic data, and has diligently pursued an investigation of Class Members' claims against Defendant. Prior to the Parties' agreement to settle this case, Class Counsel examined extensive data pertaining to Class Members, including dates of employment and termination, compensation rates, the size and demographics of Defendant's locations in California, and Class Members' potential damages. Based on the foregoing data, data developed during discovery, and its own independent investigation and evaluation, Class Counsel is of the opinion that this Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and is in the best interest of the Class Members in light of all known facts and circumstances, including the risk of significant delay, defenses asserted by Defendant to class certification and liability, and numerous potential appellate issues.
- The Parties agree to cooperate and to take all steps necessary and appropriate to 11. dismiss this action with prejudice after all payments described herein have been made.
- In order for Defendant to make payment to a Class Member, it is necessary for the 12. Class Member to provide certain information and confirm his or her identity and address. This Settlement provides that Defendant will make payments of specified sums to every Class Member who does not opt out of the Settlement and provides the information necessary to make payment by submitting a timely Claim Form. This Settlement does not establish a fund from which claims are paid. Instead, it establishes an individual entitlement for each Class Member who provides the necessary information by submitting a timely Claim Form.
- This Settlement provides for a "claims made" process requiring Defendant to make 13. a maximum payment of FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$400,000.00) that shall be referred to herein as the "Maximum Payment." The Maximum Payment represents the maximum amount that Defendant shall make toward the settlement of this action (except that Defendant shall also be responsible for the employer's share of payroll taxes in addition to the Maximum

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Payment). The Maximum Payment includes Class Counsel's attorneys' fees and costs, the

enhancement payments to the Class Representatives, and all costs of administration of this Settlement. Under no circumstances shall Defendant be required to make any payment in excess

of the Maximum Payment.

14. The Parties agree to work together expeditiously to obtain preliminary and final approval of this Settlement. The parties agree that California Code of Civil Procedure section 384 is not applicable to this Settlement. Neither Plaintiffs nor Class Counsel shall take, or cause any other person to take, a position before the Court that California Code of Civil Procedure section 384 applies to this Settlement.

- 15. In the event that more than 5% of the Class Members exclude themselves from the settlement by timely returning Request for Exclusion forms to the Claims Administrator, Defendant may, at its sole option, rescind this Stipulation. In order to exercise its rights under this paragraph, Defendant must give written notice to Class Counsel and to the Court no later than fifteen (15) days after the deadline for Class Members to submit Request for Exclusion forms to the Claims Administrator.
- 16. The "Maximum Class Payment" will consist of the portion of the Maximum Payment remaining after subtraction of Court-approved attorneys' fees and costs, enhancement awards to Class Representatives, and costs of administration. The Parties estimate that the Maximum Class Payment will total approximately Two Hundred Twenty-Three Thousand Dollars (\$213,000.00) if all fees, costs, and enhancements are approved by the Court.
- 17. 100% of the Maximum Class Payment shall be available for distribution to Class Members.
- 18. Each Class Member who submits a valid, timely Claim Form shall be entitled to a share of the Class Payment based on the formula set forth below in paragraph 20(d).
- 19. For tax purposes the Parties agree to allocate 40% of any amounts paid to Class Members as wages, 60% to non-wage penalties and interest, reportable on IRS Form 1099, as required.

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- 20. NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants, promises, and warranties set forth herein, the Parties agree, subject to the Court's approval, as follows:
- This lawsuit and any claims, damages, or causes of action arising out of the a. dispute which is the subject of this lawsuit, shall be settled and compromised as between the Settlement Class and Defendant, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this Stipulation of Settlement and the approval of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County. In the event that the Court does not execute and file the Order of Final Approval, or in the event that the Order of Final Approval does not become final for any reason, or in the event that this Settlement is modified in any material respect, or in the event that the Settlement Date, as defined herein, does not occur, this Stipulation of Settlement shall be deemed null and void ab initio and shall be of no force or effect whatsoever, and shall not be referred to or utilized for any purpose whatsoever.
- b. Settlement Date: The Settlement embodied in this Stipulation of Settlement shall go into effect upon entry of a final order by the Court certifying the class and dismissing this action with prejudice in accordance with the terms herein, and approving this Stipulation of Settlement.

#### c. Initial Reductions from the Maximum Payment:

1) Attorneys' Fees: Subject to the Court's final approval, Defendant agrees to Plaintiffs' request for an attorneys' fees award to Class Counsel in the amount of 33% of the Maximum Payment, or \$132,000.00, in order to compensate and reimburse Class Counsel for all of the work already performed by Class Counsel in this case, all of the work remaining to be performed by Class Counsel in documenting the Settlement, securing Court approval of the Settlement, making sure that the Settlement is fairly administered and implemented, and obtaining dismissal of the action. Defendant also agrees to Plaintiffs' request for an award of \$10,000.00 as reimbursement for all costs and expenses incurred by Class Counsel. The requested percentage fee and reimbursement of costs is warranted considering, without limitation: (1) the time and labor required of Class Counsel in this matter; (2) the complexity involved and the results obtained; (3) the potential contingent nature of the compensation; (4) the opportunity costs to

#### 22. Funding and Payout of Settlement

a. Settlement Funding Deadline: Within ten (10) business days of the "Effective Date" of final approval by the Court, the Claims Administrator will notify Defendant and Class Counsel of the actual amount to be paid under the Settlement, including the payment of claims administration costs, all payments for Class Counsel's attorneys' fees and costs, enhancement payments to the two Class Representatives, and the claims of all individual Class Members. Within twenty (20) days of said notification, Defendant will transfer funds to the Claims Administrator sufficient to make all such payments. The Effective Date of the Settlement shall be the date of final approval if no objections are filed to the settlement. If objections are filed and overruled, and no appeal is taken of the final approval order, then the Effective Date of final approval shall be sixty-five (65) days after the trial court enters final approval. If an appeal is taken from the Court's overruling of objections to the settlement, then the Effective Date of final approval shall be twenty (20) days after the appeal is withdrawn or after an appellate decision affirming the final approval decision becomes final.

b. <u>Settlement Payout Timetable</u>: Within thirty (30) business days of the "Effective Date" of final approval of the settlement, the Claims Administrator will pay all claims, and Court-approved attorneys' fees, costs, and enhancement payments. No money will be distributed unless and until the Effective Date of final approval occurs.

## 23. <u>Miscellaneous Provisions regarding Settlement Funds</u>:

a. Tax Treatment of Claim Share Portion of Settlement Payments: Of the amount to be paid to Class Members, 40% is allocated to wages, and 60% to non-wage penalties and interest. The Claims Administrator will be responsible for all required withholdings for portions of any payments designated as wages. Each Class Member who receives a payment under this Settlement will receive an IRS Form W-2 from the Claims Administrator for his or her portion of the amount treated as wages and will be responsible for correctly characterizing this compensation for tax purposes and for payment of any taxes owing on said amount. If required, each Class Member will receive an IRS Form 1099 from the Claims Administrator for his or her portion of the amount treated as interest or non-wage claims and will be responsible for correctly

- b. Tax Treatment of Class Representative Enhancement Award: Class Representatives will receive an IRS Form 1099 for their individual enhancement award, and will be responsible for correctly characterizing this additional compensation for tax purposes and for the payment of any taxes owing on said amount.
- Member: A "Qualified Claimant" will be defined as an individual in the Settlement Class who timely submits a Claim Form signed under the penalty of perjury. If a Qualified Claimant timely disputes Defendant's records (on a Claim Form) as to the dates that he or she met the definition of a Class Member, or as to the proper size of his or her claim, the Parties' counsel will make a good faith effort to resolve the dispute informally. If they cannot agree, the dispute shall be submitted to the Claims Administrator, who shall examine Defendant's records and make a good faith determination, which determination shall be final.
- d. <u>Right to Rescission</u>: Notwithstanding any other provision of this Stipulation of Settlement, Defendant shall retain the right, in the exercise of its sole discretion, to nullify the settlement within fifteen (15) days of expiration of the opt-out deadline, if more than 5% of the Class Members opt out of the settlement by timely submitting Request for Exclusion forms. In the event of such a rescission, no party may use the fact that the Parties agreed to settle this case as evidence of Defendant's liability in this lawsuit or the lack thereof. All signatories and their counsel must not encourage opt-outs. Class Counsel and Class Representatives specifically agree not to solicit opt-outs, directly or indirectly, through any means.

### NOTICE TO THE PLAINTIFF CLASS

24. The Parties agree that within ten (10) days after preliminary approval of this settlement agreement, Defendant will provide to the Claims Administrator all of the following information about each Class Member in a format requested by the Claims Administrator:

(1) name; (2) last known home address; (3) Social Security number; (4) the dates during the Class Period during which the Class Member qualified as a Class Member; and (5) a list of workweeks

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during the Class Period and the dates included within each workweek. The Claims Administrator will perform address updates and verifications as necessary prior to the first mailing. Within twenty (20) days after preliminary approval, and subject to the approval of the Court, the Claims Administrator will mail a Notice of Proposed Class Action Settlement ("Notice") in the form attached hereto as Exhibit "A" to each Class Member, by first class mail. Attached to the Notice will be a Claim Form and Request for Exclusion Form, in the forms attached hereto as Exhibits "B" and "C," respectively.

**CLAIM PROCESS** 

- 25. Class Members will be permitted no more than forty-five (45) days from the date the notices are mailed by the Claims Administrator to postmark or fax Claim Forms back to the Claims Administrator. Class Members will also have forty-five (45) days from the date the Notices are mailed by the Claims Administrator to postmark objections and/or Requests For Exclusion. The Claims Administrator will perform one skip-trace on returned mail and re-mail claim forms to an updated address (if any) within fifteen (15) business days of receipt of the returned mail. It is the intent of the Parties that reasonable means be used to locate Class Members. Any portion of the Maximum Class Payment not timely claimed shall be retained by Defendant.
- 26. Within five (5) business days of receipt by the Claims Administrator of each timely submitted Claim Form, the Claims Administrator will send a deficiency notice to the Class Member for any irregularities in the completed Claim Form. The deficiency notice will provide the Class Members no more than fifteen (15) days from the mailing of the deficiency notice to postmark the response to any deficiencies in writing. The failure of a Class Member to execute a Claim Form under penalty of perjury, timely submit a claim form, or timely submit a response to any deficiency notice shall invalidate a claim and will not be considered deficiencies subject to cure, unless counsel for both of the Parties stipulate to allow cure.
- 27. All original Claim Forms shall be sent or faxed directly to the Claims

  Administrator at the address indicated on the Claim Form. Defendant has made a good faith

  effort to identify all class members and will provide a detailed list of such class members to the

Claims Administrator on an Excel spreadsheet or in such other format as requested by the Claims Administrator. The Claims Administrator will certify jointly to Class Counsel and Defendant's counsel which claims were timely filed. The Claims Administrator shall be responsible for calculating the payment to each Class Member, issuing checks, withholding of all required state and federal taxes, and mailing the payments. Upon completion of the claims period, the Claims Administrator shall provide Plaintiffs and Defendant with a report listing the amount of all payments to be made to each Qualified Claimant. Proof of payment will be filed with the Court and provided to the Parties' counsel.

#### **RELEASE BY THE CLASS**

28. Upon final approval by the Court, the Settlement Class, and each Class Member who has not submitted a valid Request For Exclusion form, will release Circuit City, and each of their present and former affiliates, parent companies, subsidiaries, shareholders, officers, partners, directors, employees, agents, attorneys, insurers, predecessors, successors and assigns and each and all of their respective officers, partners, directors, servants, agents, shareholders, employees, representatives, accountants, insurers, and attorneys, past, present, and future, and all persons acting under, by, through, or in concert with any of them (collectively, the "Releasees"), from any and all claims, debts, liabilities, demands, obligations, guarantees, costs, expenses, attorneys' fees, damages, action, or causes of action, contingent or accrued, that relate to Defendant's termination of any and all Class Members on or about March 28, 2007, exclusive only of claims the Class Members may have under the related case of Weidler, et al. v. Circuit City, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC369011, under any federal, state, or local law, including without limitation: allegations of the nonpayment of wages under any federal, state, or local law; allegations of the failure to pay penalties under the California Labor Code (including without limitation penalties under Labor Code sections 203 and 1400 et seq.); or any other allegations that could have been alleged in or that arise from the complaint, including without limitation all claims arising under the FLSA, the California Labor Code or Business and Professions Code (including section 17200), or the IWC Wage Orders, claims for restitution and other equitable relief, conversion, liquidated damages, punitive damages, waiting time penalties, penalties of any nature whatsoever,

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*Case 08	35653-KRH Doc 1718-1 Filed 01/22/09 Entered 01/22/09 13:50:45 Desc Exhibit A (Settlement Agreement) Page 15 of 32				
1	form;				
2.	g. Directing the mailing of the Notice, Claim Form and Request for Exc				
3	form by first class mail to the Class Members;				
4	h. Preliminarily approving the settlement subject only to the objections of				
5	Class Members and final review by the Court;				
6	i. Preliminarily approving Class Counsel's attorneys' fees and costs subject				
7	to final review of the Court;				
8	j. Preliminarily approving Class Representatives' enhancement awards				
9	subject to final review of the Court;				
10	k. Preliminarily approving the payment of fees and costs to the Claims				
11	Administrator for administration of this Settlement, subject to final review of the Court.				
12	DUTIES OF THE PARTIES FOLLOWING FINAL APPROVAL				
13	31. Following final approval of the settlement provided for in this Stipulation of				
14	Settlement, Class Counsel will submit a proposed final order:				
15	a. Approving the Settlement, adjudging the terms thereof to be fair,				
16	reasonable, and adequate, and directing consummation of its terms and provisions;				
17	b. Approving the award of attorneys' fees and costs to Class Counsel;				
18	c. Approving the enhancement award to Plaintiffs;				
19	d. Approving the payment of fees and costs of administration to the Claim				
20	Administrator; and				
21	e. Dismissing this Action on the merits and with prejudice and permanently				
22	barring all members of the Settlement Class from prosecuting against Releasees, any individual or				
23	class claims arising out of the acts, facts, transactions, occurrences, representations, or omissions				
24	set forth in the lawsuit, that were or could have been asserted in the Action, through the date of				
. 25	the final approval of this Settlement upon satisfaction of all payments and obligations hereunder.				
26	<u>PARTIES' AUTHORITY</u>				
27	32. The signatories hereto hereby represent that they are fully authorized to enter into				
28	this Stipulation of Settlement and bind the Parties hereto to the terms and conditions hereof.				
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#### **MUTUAL FULL COOPERATION**

33. The Parties agree to fully cooperate with each other to accomplish the terms of this Stipulation of Settlement, including but not limited to, execution of such documents and to take such other action as may reasonably be necessary to implement the terms of this Stipulation of Settlement. The Parties to this Stipulation of Settlement shall use their best efforts, including all efforts contemplated by this Stipulation of Settlement and any other efforts that may become necessary by order of the Court, or otherwise, to effectuate this Stipulation of Settlement and the terms set forth herein. As soon as practicable after execution of this Stipulation of Settlement, Class Counsel shall, with the assistance and cooperation of Defendant and its counsel, take all necessary steps to secure the Court's final approval of this Stipulation of Settlement.

#### NO PRIOR ASSIGNMENTS

34. The Parties hereto represent, covenant, and warrant that they have not directly or indirectly assigned, transferred, encumbered, or purported to assign, transfer, or encumber to any person or entity any portion of any liability, claim, demand, action, cause of action or rights herein released and discharged except as set forth herein.

#### **NO ADMISSION**

35. Nothing contained herein, nor the consummation of this Stipulation of Settlement, is to be construed or deemed an admission of liability, culpability, negligence, or wrongdoing on the part of Defendant. Each of the Parties hereto has entered into this Stipulation of Settlement with the intention to avoid further disputes and litigation with the attendant inconvenience and expenses.

#### **CONSTRUCTION**

36. The Parties hereto agree that the terms and conditions of this Stipulation of Settlement are the result of lengthy, intensive arms-length negotiations between the Parties, and that this Stipulation of Settlement shall not be construed in favor of or against any party by reason of the extent to which any party or his, her, or its counsel participated in the drafting of this Stipulation of Settlement.

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#### **CAPTIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS**

37. Paragraph titles or captions contained herein are inserted as a matter of convenience and for reference, and in no way define, limit, extend, or describe the scope of this Stipulation of Settlement or any provision hereof. Each term of this Stipulation of Settlement is contractual and not merely a recital.

#### **MODIFICATION**

38. This Stipulation of Settlement may not be changed, altered, or modified, except in writing and signed by the Parties hereto, and approved by the Court. This Stipulation of Settlement may not be discharged except by performance in accordance with its terms or by a writing signed by the Parties hereto.

#### **INTEGRATION CLAUSE**

39. This Stipulation of Settlement contains the entire agreement between the Parties relating to the settlement and transaction contemplated hereby, and all prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, representations, and statements, whether oral or written, and whether by a party or such party's legal counsel, are merged herein. No rights hereunder may be waived except in writing.

#### **BINDING ON ASSIGNS**

40. This Stipulation of Settlement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the Parties hereto and their respective heirs, trustees, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns.

#### **SIGNATORIES**

41. It is agreed that because of the large number of Class Members, it is impossible or impractical to have each Class Member execute this Stipulation of Settlement. The Notice (Exhibit "A" hereto) will advise all Class Members of the binding nature of the release and such shall have the same force and effect as if this Stipulation of Settlement were executed by each member of the Class.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

42. All of the Parties and their counsel agree that they shall not share or have any

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1	communications with any member of the media other than to say that "the matter has been				
2	resolved to the mutual satisfaction of the Parties."				
3	NO RETALIATION BY DEFENDANT				
4	43. Defendant shall not take any adverse employment action or otherwise target,				
5	retaliate, or discriminate against any of the Plaintiffs or Class Members by reason of the fact that				
6	any of them: (a) instituted or in any way participated in this Action, or (b) elects or indicates an				
7	intention to participate or not to participate in the Settlement memorialized in this Stipulation of				
8	Settlement or any order entered by the Court approving its terms.				
9	COUNTERPARTS				
10	44. This Stipulation of Settlement may be executed in counterparts, and when each				
11	party has signed and delivered at least one such counterpart, each counterpart shall be deemed an				
12	original, and, when taken together with other signed counterparts, shall constitute one Stipulation				
13	of Settlement, which shall be binding upon and effective as to all Parties.				
14	DATED: CIRCUIT CITY STORES, INC.				
15					
16	By: NAME				
17	Title				
18					
19	DATED: PAUL, PLEVIN, SULLIVAN & CONNAUGHTON LLP				
20					
21	By:				
22	E. JOSEPH CONNAUGHTON JEFFREY P. AMES				
23	Attorneys for Defendant CIRCUIT CITY STORES, INC.				
24					
25	DATED: MARIA G. MONCAYO				
26	MARIA G. MONCAYO				
27					
28					
PAUL, PLEVIN, SULLIVAN & CONNAUGHTON LLP	JOINT STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT 18 AGREEMENT AND RELEASE OF CLASS ACTION CLAIMS				

	communications with any member of the media other than to say that "the matter has been		
	resolved to the mutual satisfaction of the Parties."		
	NO RETALIATION BY DEFENDANT		
	43. Defendant shall not take any adverse employment action or otherwise target,		
	retaliate, or discriminate against any of the Plaintiffs or Class Members by reason of the fact tha		
•	any of them: (a) instituted or in any way participated in this Action, or (b) elects or indicates an		
7	intention to participate or not to participate in the Settlement memorialized in this Stipulation of		
	Settlement or any order entered by the Court approving its terms.		
9	COUNTERPARTS		
10	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
11	party has signed and delivered at least one such counterpart, each counterpart shall be deemed an		
12	original, and, when taken together with other signed counterparts, shall constitute one Stipulation		
13	of Settlement, which shall be binding upon and effective as to all Parties.		
14	IDATED: Alacios		
15	CIRCUIT CITY STORES, INC.		
16	By:		
17	NAME Regnard D. Hedgebeth		
18	SUP + General Coursel		
19	DATED: 8/26/08 PAUL, PLEVIN, SULLIVAN &		
20	CONNAUGHTON LLP		
21	D.,,		
22	By: E. JOSEPH CONNAUGHTON		
23	Attorneys for Defendant		
24	CIRCUIT CITY STORES, INC.		
25	DATED:		
26	MARIA G. MONCAYO		
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A	CTION CLAIMS		

communications with any member of the media other than to say that "the matter has been resolved to the mutual satisfaction of the Parties." 2 3 NO RETALIATION BY DEFENDANT 4 Defendant shall not take any adverse employment action or otherwise target, 43. retaliate, or discriminate against any of the Plaintiffs or Class Members by reason of the fact that 5 any of them: (a) instituted or in any way participated in this Action, or (b) elects or indicates an 6 intention to participate or not to participate in the Settlement memorialized in this Stipulation of 7 Settlement or any order entered by the Court approving its terms. 8 9 COUNTERPARTS 10 44. This Stipulation of Settlement may be executed in counterparts, and when each party has signed and delivered at least one such counterpart, each counterpart shall be deemed an 11 original, and, when taken together with other signed counterparts, shall constitute one Stipulation 12 of Settlement, which shall be binding upon and effective as to all Parties. 13 14 CIRCUIT CITY STORES, INC. 15 16 17 Title 18 8/26/08 19 PAUL, PLEVIN, SULLIVAN & CONNAUGHTON LLP 20 21 By: E. JOSEPH CONNAUGHTON 22 JEFFREY P. AMES 23 Attorneys for Defendant CIRCUIT CITY STORES, INC. 24 25 MARIA G. MONCAYO JOINT STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE OF CLASS 18 ACTION CLAIMS

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# EXHIBIT "A"

#### Case 08-35653-KRH Doc 1718-1 Filed 01/22/09 Entered 01/22/09 13:50:45 Desc No Trible A (Sattle rest Age 2008) A Trace of The Property of Trace of

Case Name: MARIA G. MONCAYO, an individual, and LUELLA SMITH, an individual, individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated former employees of CIRCUIT CITY in California, v. CIRCUIT CITY, INC., Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Los Angeles, Case No. BC368973.

TO: ALL PERSONS WHO WERE EMPLOYED AS HOURLY EMPLOYEES BY CIRCUIT CITY IN CALIFORNIA AND WHOSE EMPLOYMENT WITH CIRCUIT CITY WAS TERMINATED ON OR ABOUT MARCH 28, 2007 OR SHORTLY THEREAFTER, IN RELATION TO THEIR WAGE RATES:

#### THIS NOTICE AFFECTS YOUR RIGHTS. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY.

1. YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a proposed settlement ("Settlement") of the above-captioned class action litigation ("Litigation") pending in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, has been reached by the Parties and has been granted preliminary approval by the Court supervising the Litigation. The purpose of this Notice is to describe the Litigation, to inform you of the terms of the proposed Settlement, and to inform you of your rights and options in connection with the proposed Settlement. The proposed Settlement will resolve all claims in this Litigation. A Final Approval Hearing will be held on TIME AND DATE, to determine whether the Settlement should be granted final approval. Because your rights may be affected, it is extremely important that you read this Notice carefully. You must file a claim which is postmarked by DATE 45 DAYS AFTER MAILING OF NOTICE to participate in the Settlement. Unless you choose to opt out of the Settlement, you will be bound by the Settlement if it is approved and by any order entered by the Court.

#### SUMMARY OF THE LITIGATION

2. On April 5, 2007, Plaintiffs filed a proposed class action complaint in the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. BC368973, captioned MARIA G. MONCAYO, an individual, and LUELLA SMITH, an individual, individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated former employees of CIRCUIT CITY in California, v. CIRCUIT CITY, INC. The complaint alleges that Plaintiffs and other similarly situated former employees of Defendant are entitled to recover compensatory damages, including unpaid wages, statutory penalties for failure to provide advance notice of a qualifying event under the terms of the California Worker Adjustment and Notification Act (Cal-WARN), interest, attorneys' fees, and costs under California Labor Code section 1400 et seq. Plaintiffs' complaint also contains a cause of action for violation of California Business and Professions Code section 17200 et seq., and seeks restitution allegedly due for allegedly unlawful and unfair business practices. You have received this Notice because Circuit City's records show that you were employed as an hourly employee by Circuit City in California on or about March 28, 2007, and are a Class Member.

#### **POSITIONS OF THE PARTIES**

- 3. Plaintiffs believe they have filed a meritorious action as described in their complaint, and that this case is appropriate for class certification under California law.
- 4. Circuit City denies any liability or wrongdoing of any kind associated with the claims alleged in Plaintiffs' complaint. Circuit City contends, among other things, that at all times it has complied with the California Labor Code, that it had not obligation to provide advance notice under the California WARN Act, and that it paid Plaintiffs and similarly situated employees all wages owing to them under California law.
- 5. Class Counsel has conducted a thorough investigation into the facts of the class action, including an extensive review of relevant documents, and has diligently pursued an investigation of Class Members' claims against Circuit City. Prior to the agreeing to the terms of a settlement, Class Counsel examined extensive data, including information regarding Circuit City's March 28, 2007 terminations which form the basis of Plaintiffs' complaint under Cal-WARN, documents reflecting Circuit City's relevant policies and procedures, information relevant to the size and composition of the putative classes of former employees alleged in the complaint, information relevant to Circuit City's locations in California, and information relevant to the damages alleged in the complaint. Based on the foregoing data, data developed during discovery, and its own independent investigation and evaluation, Class Counsel is of the opinion

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- 6. Circuit City has also extensively investigated and researched factual and legal issues raised in the Litigation. Although Circuit City believes it has meritorious defenses to the Litigation, Circuit City has concluded that the further defense of this Litigation would be lengthy and expensive for all Parties. Circuit City has, therefore, agreed to settle this Litigation to put to rest all claims that are or could have been asserted against it in the Litigation.
- 7. The Court has made no ruling on the merits of Plaintiffs' claims and has determined only that certification of the class for *settlement purposes* is appropriate under California law.

#### PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF THE SETTLEMENT

8. On DATE, the Court appointed the following attorney as Class Counsel to represent the Settlement Classes in this Action:

Manuel H. Miller
Martin I. Aarons
LAW OFFICES OF MANUEL H. MILLER, APC
5530 Corbin Avenue, Suite 210
Tarzana, CA 91356

- 9. On DATE, for purposes of the Settlement, the Court certified the Settlement Class.
- 10. The Settlement Class consists of "Class Members." A "Class Member" is defined as: "Any person who was one of the approximately 647 California hourly employees of Defendant whose employment with Defendant was terminated on or about March 28, 2007 or shortly thereafter, in relation to their wage rates."
- 11. If you are a member of the Settlement Class, you will be bound by the proposed Settlement described below if it is approved, unless you make a written request for exclusion in the manner described below.

#### SUMMARY OF SETTLEMENT TERMS

- 12. <u>Maximum Payment</u>. The Agreement provides that Circuit City will pay up to \$400,000 to fully resolve the issues in the Litigation ("Maximum Payment"). After the following Court-approved deductions, the remaining amount ("Maximum Class Payment") will be distributed to Class Members who timely file claims.
  - (a) <u>Deductions</u>. The following deductions will be made from the Maximum Payment:
  - (i) Attorneys' Fees and Costs Award. The Court has appointed the Law Offices of Manuel H. Miller, APC as Class Counsel. As part of the Settlement approval process, Class Counsel will seek approval of an award of attorneys' fees and expenses (the "Fees and Expense Award") in a total amount of 33% of the Maximum Payment (\$132,000.00). Class Counsel shall not be permitted to petition the Court for any additional payments for fees, costs or interest and the Fees and Expense Award shall cover all attorneys' fees and costs, past, present, and future incurred in the Litigation. As part of the Settlement, you will not be required to pay Class Counsel for representing you in the Litigation.
  - (ii) Enhancements to the Plaintiffs. The Court has approved enhancement payments of \$10,000 to each of the two named Plaintiffs for acting as representatives on behalf of the Settlement Class. These enhancements will be in addition to whatever payment they are otherwise entitled to receive as Class Members.
  - (iii) Administration Costs. The Court has approved the Parties selection of Rosenthal & Company as the "Claims Administrator" in this action. Reasonable administration fees and costs shall be paid to the Claims

Case 08-35653-KRH Doc 1718-1 Filed 01/22/09 Entered 01/22/09 13:50:45 Desc Administrator for work pertuint A fact penses in Care math in strate of 9fs 32 ettlement; provided, however, that such administration costs shall not exceed Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00).

- (b) Payment to Class Members: Plan of Allocation. The approximately \$208,000.00 remaining after these deductions will be available for distribution to Class Members who timely file claims. Each Class Member who timely files a claim will receive an equal share of the Maximum Class Payment. It is not possible at this point to provide you with an exact amount you are eligible to receive in the Settlement until the Court approves the final amount of attorney's fees, enhancement payments, and administration costs. An estimate of how much you would be eligible to receive is included on your individual Claim Form included with this packet.
- (c) <u>Tax Matters</u>. Fifty percent (50%) of the amount paid to each Settlement Class Member will be considered as wages and subject to standard wage-related deductions. IRS Forms W-2 and 1099 (and/or the equivalent California forms), if required, will be distributed to Settlement Class Members reflecting the payments they receive under the Settlement. Settlement Class Members should consult with their tax advisors concerning the tax consequences of the payments that they receive under the Settlement.
- (d) <u>Unclaimed Funds</u>. If not all Class Members participate in the Settlement, any unclaimed amounts shall be retained by Circuit City.
- (e) <u>Conditions of the Settlement</u>. This Settlement is conditioned upon the Court entering an order approving the Settlement.

#### **RELEASE OF CLAIMS**

- 13. All Class Members who have not validly requested exclusion from the Settlement will be bound by the terms of the proposed Settlement if it is approved and if the Order of Final Approval becomes final.
- 14. The Settlement, if approved, shall constitute a full and complete settlement and release of all claims arising from, or relating to, the Litigation, including, without limitation, any and all claims under state and federal law for unpaid compensation, penalties and attorneys' fees arising from Defendant's termination of the Class Members on or about March 28, 2007 within the class definition, exclusive only of claims Class Members may have under the related case of Weidler, et al. v. Circuit City, which release shall include in its effect Circuit City, and each of their present and former affiliates, parent companies, subsidiaries, shareholders, officers, partners, directors, employees, agents, attorneys, insurers, predecessors, successors, and assigns, and each and all of their respective officers, partners, directors, servants, agents, shareholders, employees, representatives, accountants, insurers, and attorneys, past, present, and future, and all persons acting under, by, through, or in concert with any of them (collectively, the "Releasees"). The Settlement Class, including Plaintiffs and each Class Member, waives all rights and benefits afforded by section 1542 of the Civil Code of the State of California with respect to such disputes and claims, and does so understanding the significance of that waiver. Section 1542 provides:

"A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release, which if known by him or her must have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor."

#### PROCEDURE FOR MONETARY RECOVERY

- 15. If you want to participate in the Settlement and receive money under the Settlement, you must sign and date the enclosed Claim Form and mail or fax it no later than DATE, to the Claims Administrator.
- 16. A copy of your Claim Form is attached. (If you need an extra copy, contact the Claims Administrator or Class Counsel.) If any information provided on the Claim Form is incorrect, please make corrections. For example, if your address is incorrect, please indicate your correct address. Also, please provide your telephone number and any other indicated information referred to on your Claim Form if it is not provided. If you wish to have confirmation that the Claims Administrator has received your Claim Form, you may do so by sending it by certified U.S. Mail with a return-receipt request. If you wish to dispute any information used to calculate your share, you may do so by mailing

Case 08-35653-KRH Doc 1718-1 Filed 01/22/09 Entered 01/22/09 13:50:45 Desc notice to Class Counsel Exchibit A (Castlian Controlly Class Counsel will attempt to resolve your dispute informally. If counsel cannot resolve the dispute informally, the dispute will be resolved by the Claims Administrator. In any event, the Claims Administrator must resolve any such disputes prior to final approval of this Settlement.

- 17. If you are a Class Member and you choose to participate in the Settlement, you will be bound by all of the provisions of the Settlement Agreement between the Parties, including a full release of claims that will prevent you from separately suing the Released Parties for the Released Claims settled in this case.
- 18. ANY CLASS MEMBER WHO DOES NOT SUBMIT A TIMELY CLAIM FORM WILL NOT RECEIVE A SHARE OF THE SETTLEMENT AMOUNT. IF YOU DO NOTHING YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO A SHARE OF SETTLEMENT AMOUNT AND YOU WILL BE BOUND BY THE TERMS OF THE SETTLEMENT, INCLUDING THE RELEASE, EVEN THOUGH YOU DID NOT RECEIVE ANY MONEY.

#### **PROCEDURE FOR EXCLUSION**

19. Class Members may exclude themselves from (or "opt-out" of) the Settlement by returning the enclosed "Request For Exclusion" form to the Claims Administrator on or before DATE. Persons who submit valid and timely Request For Exclusion forms will not participate in the Settlement, nor will they be bound by the terms of the proposed Settlement.

## OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT/FINAL SETTLEMENT HEARING

- 20. The Court will hold a Final Approval Hearing on the Settlement Agreement in Department 324 of Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, located at 600 South Commonwealth Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90005, at a.m. on DATE at which time the Court will determine whether to grant final approval to the Settlement.
- 21. Any Class Member who wishes to object to the Settlement must file with the Court and serve on counsel for the parties a written statement objecting to the Settlement. Such written statement must be filed with the Court and served on counsel for the parties no later than forty-five (45) days after the date this Notice is first mailed. No Class Member shall be entitled to be heard at the Final Approval Hearing (whether individually or through separate counsel) or to object to the Settlement, and no written objections or briefs submitted by any Class Member's intention to considered by the Court at the Final Approval Hearing, unless written notice of the Class Member's intention to appear at the Final Approval Hearing, and copies of any written objections or briefs, have been timely filed with the Court and served on counsel for the parties and the Claims Administrator. Any written objections, supporting papers and/or notices to appear at the Final Approval Hearing must clearly identify the case name and number (Moncayo et al. v. Circuit City, Inc., Case No. BC368973), must state the full name, address, date of birth, and dates of employment at Circuit City of the objector, and may be submitted to the Court either by mailing to: Clerk of the Court Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, California 90005, or by filing in person at any location of the Superior Court, County of Los Angeles, that includes a facility for civil filings. Any written objections and briefs must be served on counsel for the parties at the following addresses:

#### Class Counsel

Manuel H. Miller Martin I. Aarons Law Offices of Manuel H. Miller, APC 5530 Corbin Avenue, Suite 210 Tarzana, CA 91356

#### Defendant's Counsel

E. Joseph Connaughton Jeffrey P. Ames Paul, Plevin, Sullivan & Connaughton LLP 401 B Street, Tenth Floor San Diego, CA 92101

22. Any Class Member who does not file with the Court and serve on counsel his or her written objections in the manner provided above shall be deemed to have waived such objections and shall be foreclosed from making any objections (by appeal or otherwise) to the proposed Settlement.

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#### **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

24. If you move after receiving this Notice, if it was misaddressed, or if for any reason you want your payment or future correspondence concerning this Litigation and the Settlement to be sent to a different address, you should supply your current preferred address to the Claims Administrator and to Class Counsel.

#### **EXAMINATION OF THE PAPERS AND ADDITIONAL INQUIRIES**

- 25. This Notice is only a summary of the Litigation and the proposed Settlement and is not comprehensive. For a more detailed statement of the matters involved in the Litigation and the proposed Settlement, you may refer to the pleadings, the parties' Joint Stipulation of Settlement Agreement and Release of Class Action Claims, and other papers filed in the Litigation, which may be examined in person at the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 600 South Commonwealth Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90005, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding Court holidays.
- 26. All inquiries by Class Members regarding this Notice and/or the Settlement should be directed to Class Counsel: Law Offices of Manuel H. Miller, 5530 Corbin Avenue, Suite 210, Tarzana, California 91356; Telephone: 818-401-0066. You may also retain your own attorney at your own expense.

PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE COURT, THE JUDGE, CIRCUIT CITY OR CIRCUIT CITY'S. ATTORNEYS WITH INQUIRIES.

BY ORDER OF THE SUPERIOR COURT.

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EXHIBIT "B"

#### **CLAIM FORM**

Your estimated share of the Settlement is \$<< PRELIMINARY AMOUNT>>.

Must be postmarked or received no later than [DATE]

Moncayo, et al. v. Circuit City, Inc.
Claims Administrator
[Address]
[City, State, Zip]
[Telephone Number], [Fax Number]

CLAIMANT IDENTIFICATION	Please Make any Name/Address Corrections Below:
< <first>&gt; &lt;<last>&gt; &lt;<address1>&gt; &lt;<address2>&gt; &lt;<city>&gt; &lt;<state>&gt; <zip>&gt;</zip></state></city></address2></address1></last></first>	
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IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A SETTLEMENT PAYM CLAIM FORM TO THE ADDRESS ABOVE BY FIE POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE [DATE].	ENT, YOU MUST SIGN AND RETURN THIS RST CLASS U.S. MAIL, POSTAGE PREPAID,
According to Circuit City's records, you were one of a in California whose employment with Circuit City was to your wage rate.	approximately 647 hourly employees of Circuit City sterminated on or about March 28, 2007, in relation
Your portion of the settlement is based on this information, the total payment you can expect to receive is a gou believe the information above is incorrect, you may corrections and supporting documentation to the Claim information listed above is presumed to be correct unless that the correct	pproximately \$<<\table PRELIMINARY AMOUNT>>. If by dispute this information by sending your as Administrator. Please be advised that the
VERIFIC By signing and submitting this Claim Form to the Clais participate in the settlement, I want to receive a settlem may have against Circuit City, and all of the Releasees Proposed Class Action Settlement.	ms Administrator, I acknowledge I want to nent payment, and in return I release any claims that I
declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoin	g is true and correct.
Sign your name here Print your	name here Date

# EXHIBIT "C"

# REQUEST FOR EXCLUSION FROM PROPOSED CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

I have received the Notice of Proposed Class Action Settlement in Moncayo et al. v. Circuit City, Inc., Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. BC368973. I hereby request to be excluded from this class action lawsuit. I understand that because of this request, I will not receive any settlement payment.

DATED:

PRINTED NAME:			··· ,,
SIGNATURE:		 	
ADDRESS:		 	
ΓELEPHONE NUN	MBER:		

TO BE EFFECTIVE, THIS REQUEST FOR EXCLUSION
MUST BE MAILED AND POSTMARKED BY

(FORTY-FIVE DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE MAILING OF THE NOTICE OF PROPOSED CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT).